

## PUBLIC MEETING OF THE BOARD.

Date of General Cleaning Up of City to be Decided.

PRaise for the Physicians.

Report of the Citizens Sanitary Committee Unanimously Endorsed—Session of Health Board Yesterday. Amount of Disinfectants Available.

There were present at Tuesday's meeting of the Board of Health President Smith, Drs. Day, Wood, Emerson, Cooper and Smith, members Lansing, Waterhouse, Kellogg, and Minister Hatch, Hackfeld, Rev. Sereno Bishop, McClesney, Crowley, Herron, W. F. Allen, Wight, Rev. Birnie, Lowrey, Gonsalves, Willis, Alexander, McCandless, Gear, Kinney, Dillingham, Henry Waterhouse, A. W. Carter, Dr. Nichols, Capt. Campbell, J. F. Brown, L. A. Thurston, Austin, Atherton and Rowell.

The meeting was opened by President Smith reading the following report of the Citizens Sanitary Committee regarding a general cleaning up of the city:

HONOLULU, H. I., Sept. 17, 1895. W. O. SMITH, President Board of Health;

SIR:—At a meeting of the Board of Health held on Sunday the 15th inst. the subject of taking further measures to stamp out the cholera was discussed.

There seemed to be a unanimity of feeling that, while the cholera was now well in hand, so long as the sources of infection remained, there was danger of renewed outbreaks at intervals, which would continue the necessity for quarantine and inspection and the injury to business and menace to life. It seemed also to be agreed that the two main sources of probable contagion, now existing, were (1) the water in certain localities; and (2) infected clothing and buildings.

One reason for believing the latter to be a source of infection is, that among the large number of cases concealed until after death, the clothing and personal belongings of the deceased have in most instances been concealed, manifestly for the purpose of preventing their destruction. The fact that this clothing has been scattered about the town is undoubtedly one of the causes of the isolated and otherwise unaccounted for cases in localities entirely separated from any infection.

The method of neutralizing these two sources of infection was referred to two committees for consideration and report by way of suggestion to the Board.

The committee on infected clothing and buildings, consisting of the undersigned, report, that they have consulted the Citizens' Sanitary Committee, and the inspectors acting in conjunction with them, as well as others, and this report has their approval.

Among other matters which have come to the committee's attention, is the fact that during the past two weeks, a large majority of the cases have originated west of Nuuanu street and makai of the line of School street; and, with exceptions, all of the cases during the last five days have five days have originated in the Palama and Kalihi section of the town.

Under these circumstances, there has been considerable discussion of the propriety of strictly quarantining that section and allowing no one to come out for a given period.

The conclusion was reached, however, that this had better not be attempted, for three reasons, viz: (1) The Board of Health has already either destroyed or thoroughly disinfected all buildings and premises in which any cholera patients have been located, and quarantined all other occupants of the buildings; and, in Wai-pilo, has removed from the district and placed in quarantine the entire settlement, amounting to over sixty people.

(2) The Palama section is the most difficult of any in town to effect a quarantine. It is divided by only two main streets, Liliha and King streets, while it is intersected with numerous narrow, crooked lanes and blind alleys, with large portions intersected by swamps, springs and ditches, and having no means of communication except long, narrow, and taro patch banks.

The cholera cases have been on both sides of King and Liliha streets. The quarantining of the infected locality would therefore require a line having no natural boundary, or else one including a large portion of uninfected territory. In either case it would be difficult to effectually carry it out. If the disease should increase in the future it may be necessary to further reconsider this subject, but, under existing circumstances, the committee does not see its way clear to recommend such a step at present.

(3) A third reason for not taking so radical a step as quarantining this large and populous section of the town is that for the last four or five days all of the new cases have come from two or three buildings, indicating that the general source of infection is not so active as it was, and that other measures may suffice to crush it out.

The committee are informed on medical authority that the cholera germs cannot survive more than a few hours of sunlight nor more than twenty-four hours of absolute dryness, and that the application of a considerably diluted solution of lime or other disinfectants is sufficient to destroy the germs.

In view of the quarantine the committee recommended that a day be set apart for a universal house-cleaning and mousing of the contents of every dwelling in the city, and the disinfecting, by the use of lime and other disinfectants, of the infected portion of the city and so much of the remainder thereof as disinfectants at the disposal of the Board will reach.

This proposition appears at first sight to involve a Herculean task. And so it would if an attempt should be made to carry it out by hired laborers and without the co-operation of the people. But "many hands make light work," and if every householder and person in town will disinfect his own premises and belongings on a given day the work can be accomplished on that day.

Your committee believe that the proposition is entirely practical if the procedure hereunder indicated is adopted.

If sufficient lime or other disinfectants were available, we should recommend that the disinfecting procedure hereunder suggested be applied to the whole city. The committee has ascertained, however, that besides fifty barrels in the possession of the Board which must be kept for current cases, there are only fifty barrels, newly burned by E. B. Thomas, available in the city. No more will be available from the latter source until next Sunday. About 150 barrels is expected by the Andrew Welch, now about due; but it is not here, and may not be for another week, and some of this will not be available.

In addition to lime, there is available for disinfecting purposes enough material to make 2500 gallons of corrosive sublimate and 45,000 lbs. of 10 per cent. solution of sulphuric acid with a productive capacity of 10,000 lbs. a day in addition. There are also small quantities of some other disinfectants hereinafter enumerated. The committee has received extremely conflicting advice as to the relative value of the above named substances, and, therefore, do not express any opinion upon the subject, leaving to the Board the decision of what disinfectant shall be used; but all seem to agree that lime is good, and as lime has the advantage of self-demonstrating where it has been used, the committee suggest that it be used wherever practicable as soon as available.

It has been argued by some that it is not best to do any disinfecting until there is enough disinfecting material to cover the whole town at once. The committee are of the opinion, however, that it is advisable to proceed with the cleaning and sunning proposition at once, and use what disinfectants are available at the points most infected; furnishing disinfectants for other localities when they are obtainable.

We recommend: 1. That the Board of Health, by formal regulations, order that upon a designated day all residence buildings and premises, in the district of Honolulu, be thoroughly cleaned; and that all clothing in personal use not newly washed and clean, and all bedding in use, be exposed to the sun all day, or during so much thereof as there may be no rain.

2. That certain portions of the city which have been most infected with cholera be designated as "Infected Districts;" and that in such infected districts all carpets and mats be also taken up and likewise exposed to the sun all day.

3. That in the said designated infected districts all unpainted rough wood interiors and floors b. white-washed; and all painted floors, interior walls, door and window casings and veranda rails, be washed with a disinfecting solution.

4. That in such infected districts all clothing not newly washed and cleaned which will not be injured by boiling, be boiled.

5. While believing that the great majority of people will cheerfully co-operate with the order, it should be made obligatory; for this purpose, a printed notice should be served upon each householder in accordance with the terms of the statute. This notice can be delivered by the sub-inspectors upon their tours of inspection.

6. We further recommend that the Board furnish all lime and disinfectants and whitewash brushes needed free of charge.

7. That the Board request all merchants and employers of labor in the city to, as far as possible, discontinue business on the designated cleaning day, without stopping the pay of employees, in order to enable them to devote the entire day to cleaning and disinfection.

It is probable that some householders can not do all that is required to be done in one day. They can continue the next day and keep on until the day is better than the first. If the buildings most in need of disinfection can be completed in one day.

8. It is manifest that unless the proposed disinfection, cleaning and sunning takes place under intelligent supervision, it will not be properly done.

The city is now divided into 21 sanitary districts, each of which is subdivided into from 3 to 20 sub-districts. Each district is in charge of a sanitary inspector, and each sub-district is in charge of from one to five sub-inspectors.

We propose that for the day designated the sub-districts be still further divided and the number of sub-inspectors increased. If business houses will close and business men will volunteer to do inspection work, there will be no lack of intelligent supervision.

We propose that each inspector shall further sub-divide his district and assign designated buildings to each sub-inspector by name, who will be held responsible for the carrying out of the orders of the Board in and concerning such buildings.

9. We further recommend that, when available, depots of lime and other disinfecting material be established in each sub-district of the infected districts, under the charge of the respective sub-inspectors.

Barrels should be provided, in which the whitewash can be mixed and the other disinfectants contained from which it can be served out in buckets brought by the people of the locality. The application of both the whitewash and the solution can probably best be made with brooms or mops, a cheap variety of which can be obtained in quantity.

10. The districts which we recommend should be designated as infected districts, and as such to be treated as above indicated are as follows:

1. That portion of Sanitary District 18 lying below King street and east of the Kalihi stream.

2. District 1.

3. That portion of District 2 lying below the extension of School street.

3a. Apanas 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 and 8—District 3, excepting the St. Louis College premises.

4. Districts 5 and 21.

5. That portion of District 20, lying

between School street, Panchowli street as far as the Portuguese market and the Panoa stream.

6. Apanas 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of District 8.

7. That portion of District 9 lying below the line of the extension of Queen street, and on or adjacent to Sheridan street.

In addition to the above we recommend that the Board adopt a regulation that all unpainted wooden buildings and structures in the city be lime-washed, inside and out at least once in six months; the execution of this order to be suspended until lime is available with which to carry it out. We believe that not only the sanitary effect of such a regulation would be good, but that the moral effect in inducing greater cleanliness and regard for appearances would be highly beneficial.

We enclose herewith a copy of a report made by a sub-committee of the Citizens Committee, upon the available supply of disinfectants.

Although beyond the strict limits of the subject referred to us, as the proposed is widespread and radical, all information and suggestions available should be obtained, and the committee suggest the advisability of holding a special open meeting of the Board, at which the medical fraternity of the town be especially invited to attend, and where a more general expression of public sentiment can be obtained than has been obtained by this committee. Respectfully submitted,

L. A. THURSTON.

J. K. SMITH.

REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEE.

HONOLULU (H. I.), Sept. 16th. To the Citizens Sanitary and Relief Committee:

GENTLEMEN:—Your committee appointed to ascertain what quantity of disinfectants could be obtained in Honolulu beg to report that we have made careful inquiry, and find that there is no lime available at present.

The thirty barrels on hand with the Board of Health authorities are required as a reserve for special use and will have to be returned to the party from which they were borrowed out of the 150 barrels which are expected to arrive shortly by sailing vessel. From fifty to ninety barrels will be the probable output from the burning at the lime kiln.

Any quantity of commercial sulphuric acid is available. 45,000 lbs. of 10 per cent. solution and 10,000 lbs. per day additional. 200 lbs. sulphate of zinc. 700 lbs. blue stone. 150 lbs. Oxalic acid. 1000 lbs. brimstone. 800 lbs. powdered sulphur. 75 lbs. nitrate of lead. A large amount of disinfecting lime and creolin. 25 lbs. permanganate of potash. 12½ lbs. bichloride of mercury.

The majority of the physicians consulted by the committee recommend the last mentioned (bichloride of mercury) as the only disinfectant valuable for such a disinfecting wash as could be required for cleansing walls and floors, although a number of them considered sulphuric acid, disinfectine, creoline, crude carbolic acid and permanganate of potash as good.

A. V. GEAR, HENRY SMITH, Committee.

The President thought Honolulu was not out of the woods yet, although it seemed that the disease was checked. It was to be hoped that no new cases of cholera would appear. If the report could be carried out it should be done at once. Everything was being done to stamp out the disease. The opinions of medical men were to the effect that cases might appear in a week or two, and if conditions were neglected the epidemic might be renewed. It was a big undertaking to carry out the recommendations of the committee, but it should be done as near as possible. He believed that it would take more than one day to clean the city as outlined in the report, and if more than one day was necessary then two days should be set apart for the work. Business should be suspended for the time and everybody go to house-cleaning with the co-operation of the citizens and authorities. It was to be regretted that there was not more lime in the city for purposes of disinfection. Perhaps it would be best to go ahead with what was available rather than wait. It was the duty of every citizen to do all possible to root out the cholera.

Dr. Emerson believed that half a loaf was better than no bread. It was of the opinion that work should be commenced at once and with what material was available.

President Smith added that the inspection and cleaning of the city should be attended to while the inspectors were at work. A great deal of hard work has been accomplished by those doing the duty and at great personal inconvenience, for which he believed the people were duly grateful. The work of the Sanitary Committee and inspectors could not be too highly endorsed.

Dr. Wood asked how far the present supply of lime would go if used only in the infected districts. Mr. Thurston said there were not less than 200 houses in the infected districts that needed attention—part of them were dilapidated, but the major portion were of frame and roughly boarded. In China town most all the buildings were rough and needed whitewashing very badly.

Dr. Smith thought that the present supply of lime should be used only in the houses of the natives where the cholera had a peeped. Better let Chinatown rest a while; present supply of lime will about complete the interior of the houses used by the natives and where the germs originated.

Mr. Lansing said it was an odd proceeding to have the Board order a general house cleaning. He had not heard of such procedure before.

President Smith thought none of the families would object to assisting the Board in carrying out the order. He believed in making it mandatory and see that it was done. There should be no distinction; everybody to be treated alike.

Rev. Sereno Bishop wished to denounce that portion of the committee's report regarding District 20, part of which he was an inspector. He did not believe that portion—a lane running from the Fort Street School and along which several natives resided—should be declared infected. There was not the least infection there and none had been spoken of.

Mr. Thurston explained that it was not the intention of the committee to do an injustice in the matter mentioned by Mr. Bishop. Application had been made to Mr. Marsden for natural boundaries.

Rev. Bishop wished to call the attention of the Board to the fact that some hardships might be inflicted in the matter of declaring a general cleaning up. For instance, he and his wife were aged people, employed no help, and were not able to perform that kind of work. He did not believe the Board could carry out such an order, and it was manifestly unjust to do so; some discretion should be made in the matter.

It was pointed out that if Mr. Bishop was not able to do the kind of work mentioned, it was a very simple matter to employ someone else to do it.

President Smith believed no petty question should hinder the work to be carried out. If by carrying out the recommendations of the committee the danger of infection would be lessened and an epidemic averted, every one should put their shoulders to the wheel and carry it out.

Dr. Wood, in moving adoption of the committee's report, spoke of the danger of cholera being carried in infected clothing. The germs would live several weeks in damp places, on damp carpets and matting. Cleaning the houses thoroughly would result in killing the germs, which would go a long way in stamping out the disease; the problem would then be confined to earth and water. Experiments were being made regarding both of these. The doctor told how cholera germs might be transmitted to different localities by persons carrying the infection on bare feet. He heartily favored carrying out the report of the committee and believed it should be done at once.

Rev. Birnie was favorably impressed by what had been told about the Hawaiians co-operating in the work of cleaning.

Mr. Wight favored two days in which to carry out the work instead of one. He did not believe there was any inclination on the part of employers of labor to deduct wages from those who assisted in the movement.

As a further protection it might be safe to fumigate the business houses during the period of suspension of trade. Several parties infected with cholera had circulated throughout the city before going to the cholera hospital, and through this means the infection might have been carried to different stores.

Dr. Smith suggested that the inspectors be instructed to ascertain how many houses needed thorough fumigation and whitewashing, especially those inhabited by natives. Different kinds of disinfectants could be used on other houses.

President Smith favored the suggestion that the inspectors make reports of the infected districts and action be taken on their recommendations.

Mr. Thurston was positive that the most important thing to be avoided was discrimination. The natives were more than anxious to have their houses cleaned and whitewashed at the expense of the Government. They would be disappointed if lime was not furnished for the purpose; the natives would render all the assistance possible in carrying out the work.

Replying to a question of Mr. Kinney as to how long the tabu on fish would remain in force, Dr. Day said he was not prepared at the moment to say, but thought it would not be safe to use fish until thirty days after the disease had been wiped out.

On motion of Dr. Wood the report of the committee was unanimously adopted.

Concerning the public meeting of the Board, as mentioned in the report, Mr. Thurston believed it imperative to secure the co-operation of the people and the entire community.

Such a course would have a tendency to carry the work out more thoroughly, which was earnestly desired.

In this connection President Smith paid the members of the Board and physicians who had co-operated with them a very high compliment. All the physicians in the city—with three or four exceptions—had worked day and night to assist in stamping out the epidemic. They had sacrificed time, money, practice and health in the public service. When the cholera first made its appearance, President Smith stated that special and personal invitation had been given to all the physicians to co-operate with the Board. Since that time, himself and others of the Board had called upon and personally requested all the physicians to assist. He was very glad to invite them and have their assistance. It was to the honor and credit of the physicians that had done their duty nobly that a great public calamity had been averted. Cholera is a calamity and has already claimed many victims, notwithstanding all that had been done. While he would be pleased to have the assistance of every one during the epidemic, the Board did not intend being hampered by any one.

After considerable discussion as to what days to set apart for the cleaning up of the city and a public meeting of the Board, it was decided to hold the meeting today (Wednesday), at 3 p. m.

On motion of Dr. Smith a committee, consisting of Joseph Marsden, W. E. Rowell, A. V. Gear, W. A. Kinney, Dr. J. K. Smith, G. W. Smith and Dr. Brodie, were appointed to formulate plans for the work and make a report at the meeting today.

President Smith said that he very much desired to put Dr. Brodie on the committee if he would consent to serve. The Board had been unsuccessful in securing his co-operation so far.

Mr. Rowell asked permission of the Board to start the dredger at work in the harbor. There was about ten days' work needed to finish the place where work had ceased. It was thought best not to grant the request.

MEETING OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

The committee appointed at yesterday's meeting of the Board of Health to formulate plans for a general cleaning up of the city met in the Chamber of Commerce rooms last night.

It was decided to request each inspector of the districts which are wholly, or in part infected, to furnish the number of houses in such infected portions, giving approximately their sizes and need of whitewashing; also to designate the most convenient point in each upon from which whitewash and disinfectants can be distributed.

A two per cent. solution of sulphuric acid will be the disinfectant to be used in the infected houses, or portions that cannot be whitewashed.

## DREAD DISEASE IS CHECKED.

One Case Developed in Cholera Hospital Yesterday.

CAME FROM INFECTED DISTRICT.

Looks as if Honolulu is to be Freed the Scourge—Case Reported in Hospital Monday Died Yesterday—Board of Health Hopeful of Early Eradication.

[From Wednesday's Daily.]

The cholera situation continues in its encouraging aspect. Not a single case was taken from the city up to midnight last night. The situation at the hospital, as reference to the official bulletin will show, is one that the physicians in charge can well be proud of. With the citizens working energetically on the outside for the complete suppression of cholera, and the physicians' aid in the hospital for the cure of those who have already taken the disease, Honolulu will soon be able to breathe a sigh of relief that the black cloud which has been hovering over it for so many days has passed away entirely.

ONE NEW CASE. The only new case of cholera yesterday was that of

PAKEKE, a resident of Kapalama, taken sick at 3 a. m. and reported at 8 a. m. while in quarantine at the cholera hospital.

W. KEEPI, who was brought in from the corner of King and Liliha streets at 1 p. m. Monday, died yesterday at 1:40 a. m.

NUMBER OF CASES.

Previously reported..... 83  
For 24 hours ending midnight..... 0  
New cases to date..... 1

Total..... 84

REPORTED.

Reported soon after taken sick..... 48  
When dying..... 19  
After death..... 16

Total..... 84

LIVING.

Completely recovered..... 22  
In hospital to date..... 3

Total..... 25

DEATHS.

Previously reported..... 58  
For 24 hours ending midnight..... 0  
Deaths to date..... 1

Total..... 59

NATIONALITY.

Native Hawaiians..... 74  
Part Hawaiians..... 3  
Europeans..... 5  
Chinese..... 1  
Japanese..... 1

Total..... 84

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